

4 March 2021

**To: General Secretaries**  
CWM Member Churches

Dear Colleagues in ministry:

**The current situation in Myanmar**

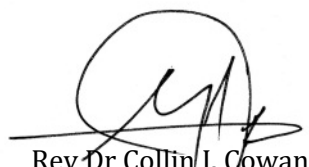
I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and God's richest blessings be upon you, your family and the community of God's people you are called to lead at such a time as this.

As you are aware, Myanmar continues to experience escalating unrest as protests against the current military rule occur daily since the military staged a coup to overthrow the democratic government at the beginning of February. The military's response to the protests has become increasingly violent resulting in countless deaths and injuries of civilians, throwing the whole country into great crisis. This state of affairs on top of the ongoing pandemic as well as the prevailing situation of the Rohingya crisis has caused great anguish for the people of Myanmar.

I wish to advise you that in keeping with CWM's commitment to mutual accompaniment, we have reached out to Rev Ram Thanga, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM), to express our concern with the unfolding situation and our commitment to solidarity with the Church and people of Myanmar. In his response, Rev Ram Thanga has described the situation as the people's struggle for freedom from the military, which is most potently being expressed through civil disobedience to which the military is responding with brutal repression. He has warned that the military is closing in on what were previously considered safe spaces, including cutting off means of communication, particularly access to the internet. He requests prayers that the military government will exercise restraint towards the people, and for Myanmar to be fully returned into the hands of a civilian and duly elected government.

During the recently concluded Board of Directors Meeting, the board has spent time reflecting on the situation in Myanmar, expressing their concern for PCM and has discussed possible ways to accompany the church in this difficult time.

We invite you to stand together in solidarity with Myanmar and pray for a quick end to the people's struggle and suffering, and for peace and order to be restored soon. We pray for the Church to be a shining beacon of hope to all amidst this confounding darkness.



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**General Secretary**  
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